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Fantastic Four
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BACK, SUE! GET BEHIND ME!
NOW IT'S TRAINING ITSELF UPON US!
HEY, STRETCHO.. IS THAT THING FER REAL?
YOU'LL FIND OUT IF IT EVER HITS YOU, BEN!
REED! IT'S GETTING CLOSER TO YOU! AND NOW...IT'S ABOUT TO HIT YOUR-HAND!
IF I CAN JUST ENCLOSE YOU WITH MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD IN TIME--!
YOU DID IT, HONEY! THE RAY CAN'T GET THROUGH!
BUT, DARLING...I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW CAN A LIFELESS MACHINE SUDDENLY GO BERSERK THAT WAY ??
IT CAN'T, SUE! THERE HAS TO BE SOME HUMAN AGENCY BEHIND ALL THIS... SOMEHOW!
WHILE YER BUSY MAKIN' SPEECHES, BIGDOME, OL' BLUE-EYED BENJAMIN'LL TACKLE THAT GOOFY GIZMO FROM BEHIND!
HANG ON, KIDDIES... I'M GONNA MAKE MINCEMEAT OUTTA IT!
NO, BEN... HOLD IT! IT'S TURNING TOWARDS YOU.. BEN..DON'T..!
TOO LATE! HE..HE TOOK THE FULL BRUNT OF THE BLAST!
LUCKILY, HE WAS PRESSED AGAINST THE BARREL-- SO HIS OWN POWERFUL BODY MUFFLED THE DEADLY IMPACT!
BUT, THE INTENSITY IS GROWING--- IT'S HURLING HIM BACK--!
2

SUE! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE HIM...!
I KNOW! MY FORCE FIELD!
I'VE GOT TO REMOVE IT FROM US... AND THROW IT AROUND THE MACHINE ITSELF!
THERE! I DID IT!
BUT, THE RAY IS STILL ACTIVATED! WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE PRESSURE BUILDS UP..??
DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, DARLING?
PTHOOM!
IT BLEW ITSELF UP! WE'LL BE SAFE NOW!
I'M AFRAID NOT, SUE!
THERE'LL BE NO SAFETY FOR US TILL WE LEARN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE... AND HOW TO STOP HIM!
BUT, YOU NEED REST, NOW, DEAR! YOU'VE OVER-TAXED YOURSELF!
BEN! WHAT ABOUT BEN...?
RELAX, SUSIE, BABY! I'M AS LOVABLE AS EVER!
I'M LUCKY THE EXPLOSION DIDN'T MESS AROUND WITH MY GOOD LOOKS!
BUT WHAT IN THE NAME O' MY SWINGIN' AUNT PETUNIA IZZIS ALL ABOUT??!
WE JUST GOT DONE CLOBBERIN' DOC DOOM, DIDN'T WE? *
DON'TCHA EVEN GET A COFFEE BREAK IN THIS BLASTED SUPER-HEROIN' BUSINESS??
* INDEED THEY DID, AS RAPTUROUSLY REVEALED IN OUR PARTICULARLY PRAISE-WORTHY PREVIOUS ISH!..CAPTION-CRAZY STAN!
HOLD IT DOWN TO A ROAR, OLD FRIEND! SUE HAS FALLEN ASL.. BEN!!
YEOWK!
NOW WHAT HIT ME?!!
MY REMOTE-CONTROL GRAVI-POLARIZERS! BUT... WHAT ACTIVATED THEM?
WHEN YA FIND OUT, LEMME KNOW, WILLYA?!!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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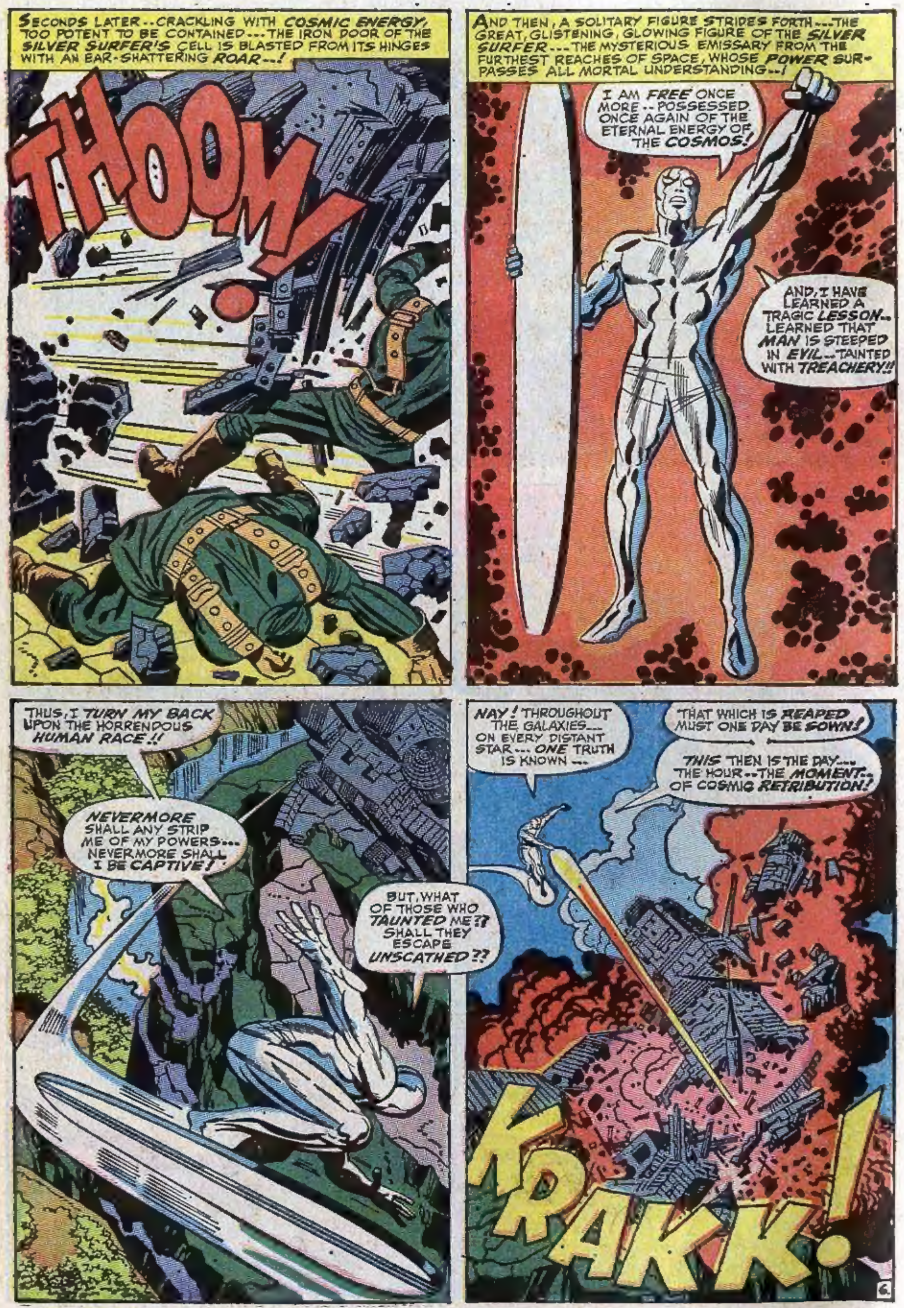
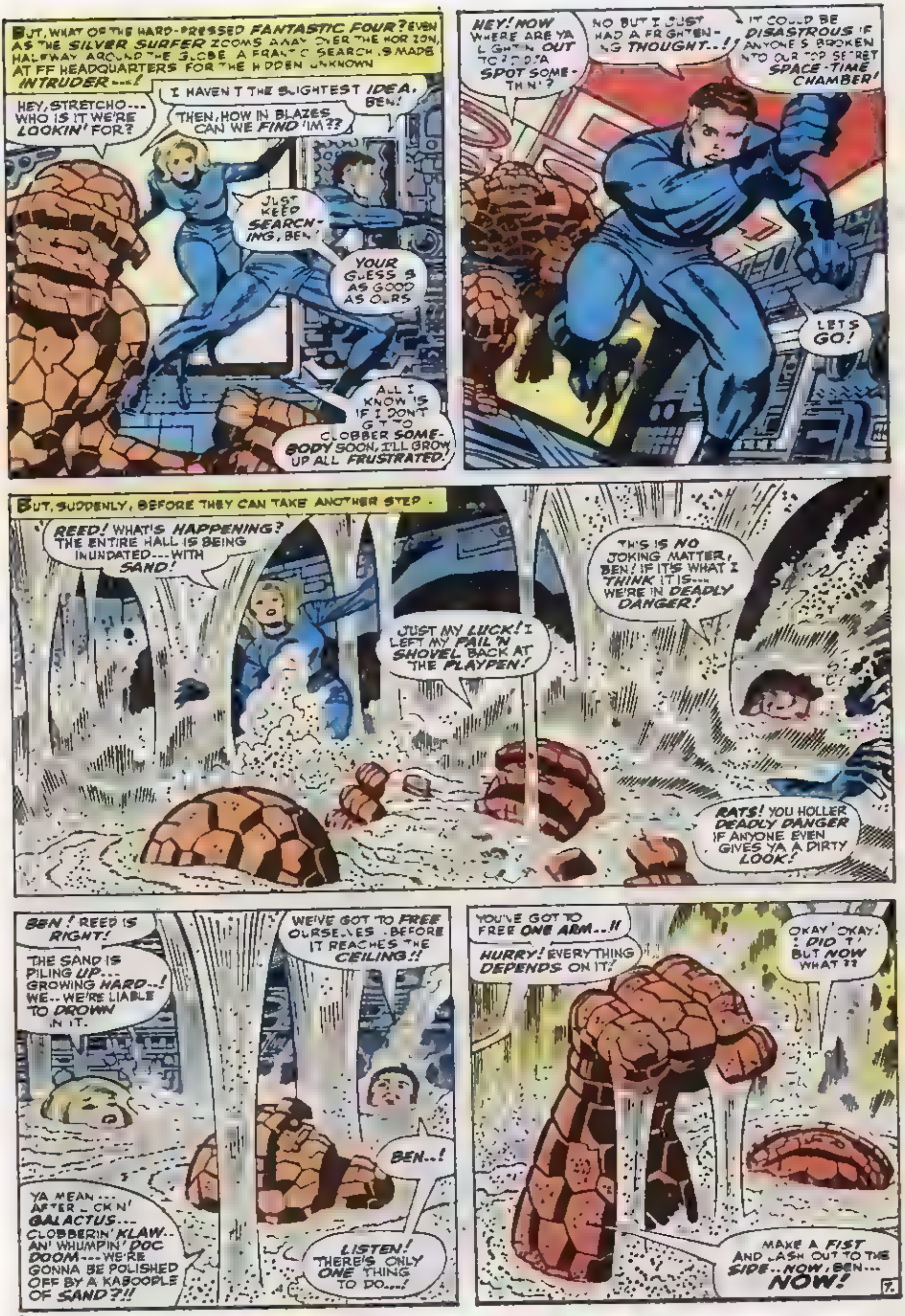
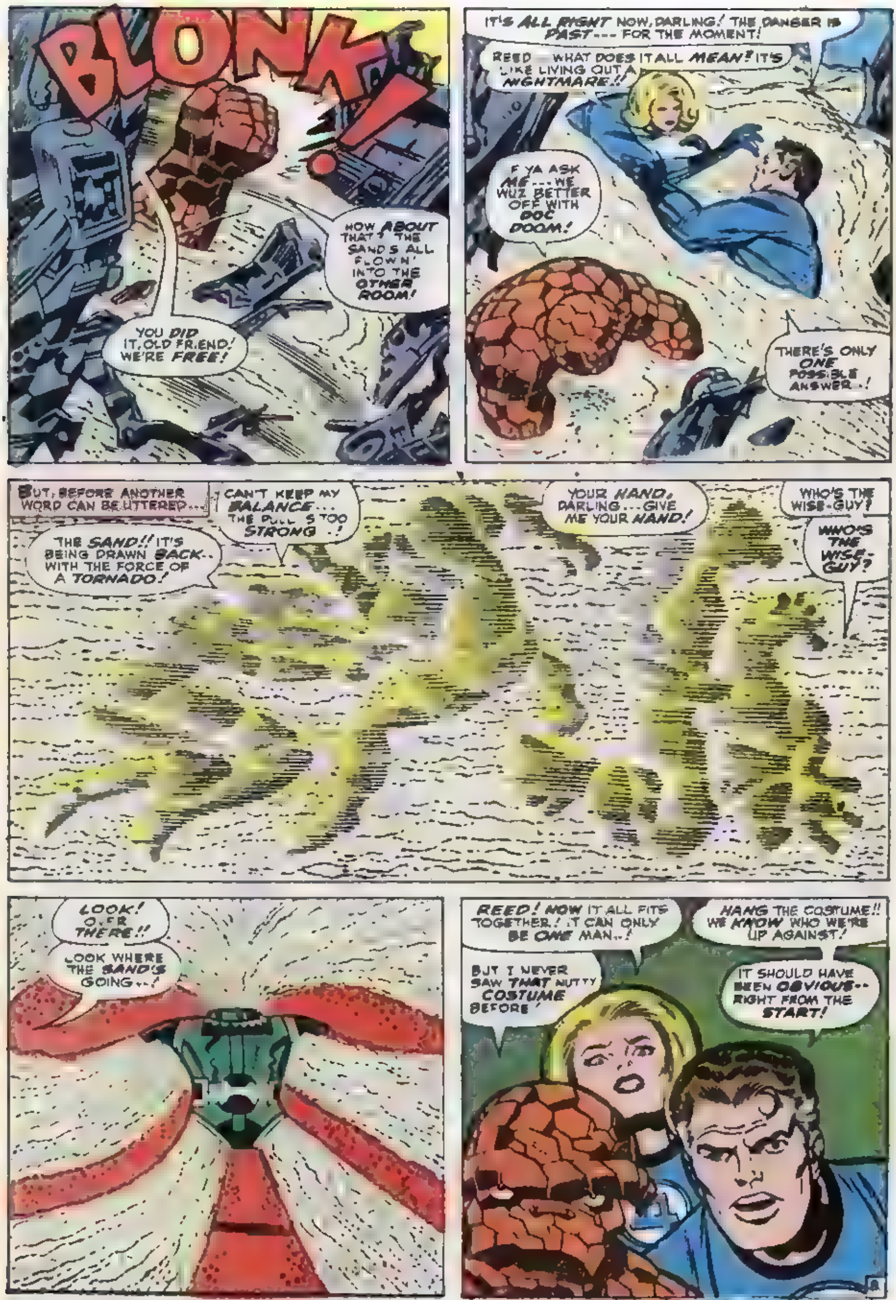
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A HEAVILY-GUARDED CASTLE IN FAR-OFF LATVERIA, WE FIND---
EVEN THOUGH DOCTOR DOOM HAS STOLEN MY COSMIC POWER ... I SHALL NEVER YIELD!
THE SILVER SURFER WILL NEVER CEASE STRIVING FOR FREEDOM---
THOUGH AN ETERNITY PASSES, MY SPIRIT WILL NEVER BE CRUSHED!
SHOW HIM THE PICTURE ONCE MORE!
I LIKE TO WATCH WHAT IT DOES TO THE HELPLESS FOOL!
LOOK! SEE THE REACHES OF OUTER SPACE! SEE THE UNENDING VASTNESS THAT YOU CALL HOME!
THE STAR-STUDDED SKIES--- THE GREAT-GLISTENING GALAXIES--!
IF I COULD BUT SEE THEM ONCE MORE!
...TO RIDE THE CURRENTS OF THE COSMOS ... TO ZOOM TOWARD THE BRINK OF INFINITY--!
I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE--!
YOU WILL GIVE YOUR LIFE, YOU SILVER-COATED SWINE!!
HAH! BUT YOU'LL NEVER SEE SPACE AGAIN! NOT WHILE DR. DOOM STILL LIVES!
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN WE HUMANS, EH?
YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT A ROTTEN ALIEN!
THIS IS WHAT WE DO TO YOUR KIND!
NO! I NEVER SAID...
UHHH!
DO TO ME WHAT YOU WILL... IT MATTERS NOT! THE LION IS NOW SORE BESET BY JACKALS!
YET, HAD I BUT ONE IOTA OF MY FORMER POWER... THE JACKAL WOULD BARK NO MORE!
YEAH? WE'LL SEE WHO'S THE JACKAL AROUND HERE WHEN DR. DOOM RETURNS!
WE WON'T BE BACK... TILL IT'S TIME FOR YOUR EXECUTION!
BUT, EVEN AS THE MERCILESS GUARDS SWAGGER TO THEIR POSTS IN THE GLOOMY CORRIDOR, A STRANGE FLYING SURFBOARD... GLEAMING WITH POWER BEYOND DESCRIPTION ... RETURNS TO ITS RIGHTFUL MASTER--!
OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!! CAN IT BE?? DO MY TORTURED EYES DECEIVE ME...?



SECONDS LATER -- CRACKLING WITH COSMIC ENERGY, TOO POTENT TO BE CONTAINED --- THE IRON DOOR OF THE SILVER SURFER'S CELL IS BLASTED FROM ITS HINGES WITH AN EAR-SHATTERING ROAR --!
THOOM!
AND THEN, A SOLITARY FIGURE STRIDES FORTH --- THE GREAT, GLISTENING, GLOWING FIGURE OF THE SILVER SURFER --- THE MYSTERIOUS EMISSARY FROM THE FURTHEST REACHES OF SPACE, WHOSE POWER SURPASSES ALL MORTAL UNDERSTANDING --!
I AM FREE ONCE MORE -- POSSESSED ONCE AGAIN OF THE ETERNAL ENERGY OF THE COSMOS!
AND, I HAVE LEARNED A TRAGIC LESSON -- LEARNED THAT MAN IS STEEPED IN EVIL -- TAINTED WITH TREACHERY!!
THUS, I TURN MY BACK UPON THE HORRENDOUS HUMAN RACE!!
NEVERMORE SHALL ANY STRIP ME OF MY POWERS --- NEVERMORE SHALL I BE CAPTIVE!
BUT, WHAT OF THOSE WHO TAUNTED ME?? SHALL THEY ESCAPE UNSCATHED??
NAY! THROUGHOUT THE GALAXIES --- ON EVERY DISTANT STAR --- ONE TRUTH IS KNOWN ---
THAT WHICH IS REAPED MUST ONE DAY BE SOWN!
THIS THEN IS THE DAY --- THE HOUR -- THE MOMENT -- OF COSMIC RETRIBUTION!
KRAKK!
6



BUT, WHAT OF THE HARD-PRESSED FANTASTIC FOUR? EVEN AS THE SILVER SURFER ZOOMS AWAY OVER THE HORIZON, HALFWAY AROUND THE GLOBE A FRANTIC SEARCH IS MADE AT FF HEADQUARTERS FOR THE HIDDEN UNKNOWN INTRUDER...!
HEY, STRETCHO... WHO IS IT WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR?
I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA, BEN!
THEN, HOW IN BLAZES CAN WE FIND 'IM??
JUST KEEP SEARCHING, BEN!
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS
ALL I KNOW IS IF I DON'T GIT TO CLOBBER SOMEBODY SOON, I'LL GROW UP ALL FRUSTRATED!
HEY! NOW WHERE ARE YA LIGHTIN' OUT TO? D'JA SPOT SOMETHIN'?
NO BUT I JUST HAD A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT..!
IT COULD BE DISASTROUS IF ANYONE'S BROKEN INTO OUR TOP SECRET SPACE-TIME CHAMBER!
LET'S GO!
BUT, SUDDENLY, BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE ANOTHER STEP...
REED! WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE ENTIRE HALL IS BEING INUNDATED---WITH SAND!
JUST MY LUCK! I LEFT MY PAIL 'N SHOVEL BACK AT THE PLAYPEN!
THIS IS NO JOKING MATTER, BEN! IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS... WE'RE IN DEADLY DANGER!
RATS! YOU HOLLER DEADLY DANGER IF ANYONE EVEN GIVES YA A DIRTY LOOK!
BEN! REED IS RIGHT!
THE SAND IS PILING UP... GROWING HARD..! WE.. WE'RE LIABLE TO DROWN IN IT.
WE'VE GOT TO FREE OURSELVES BEFORE IT REACHES THE CEILING!!
BEN..!
YA MEAN... AFTER LICKIN' GALACTUS... CLOBBERIN' KLAW.. AN' WHUMPIN' DOC DOOM... WE'RE GONNA BE POLISHED OFF BY A KABOOPLE OF SAND?!!
LISTEN! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...!
YOU'VE GOT TO FREE ONE ARM..!!
HURRY! EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON IT!
OKAY! OKAY! I DID IT! BUT NOW WHAT??
MAKE A FIST AND LASH OUT TO THE SIDE..NOW, BEN... NOW!
7.

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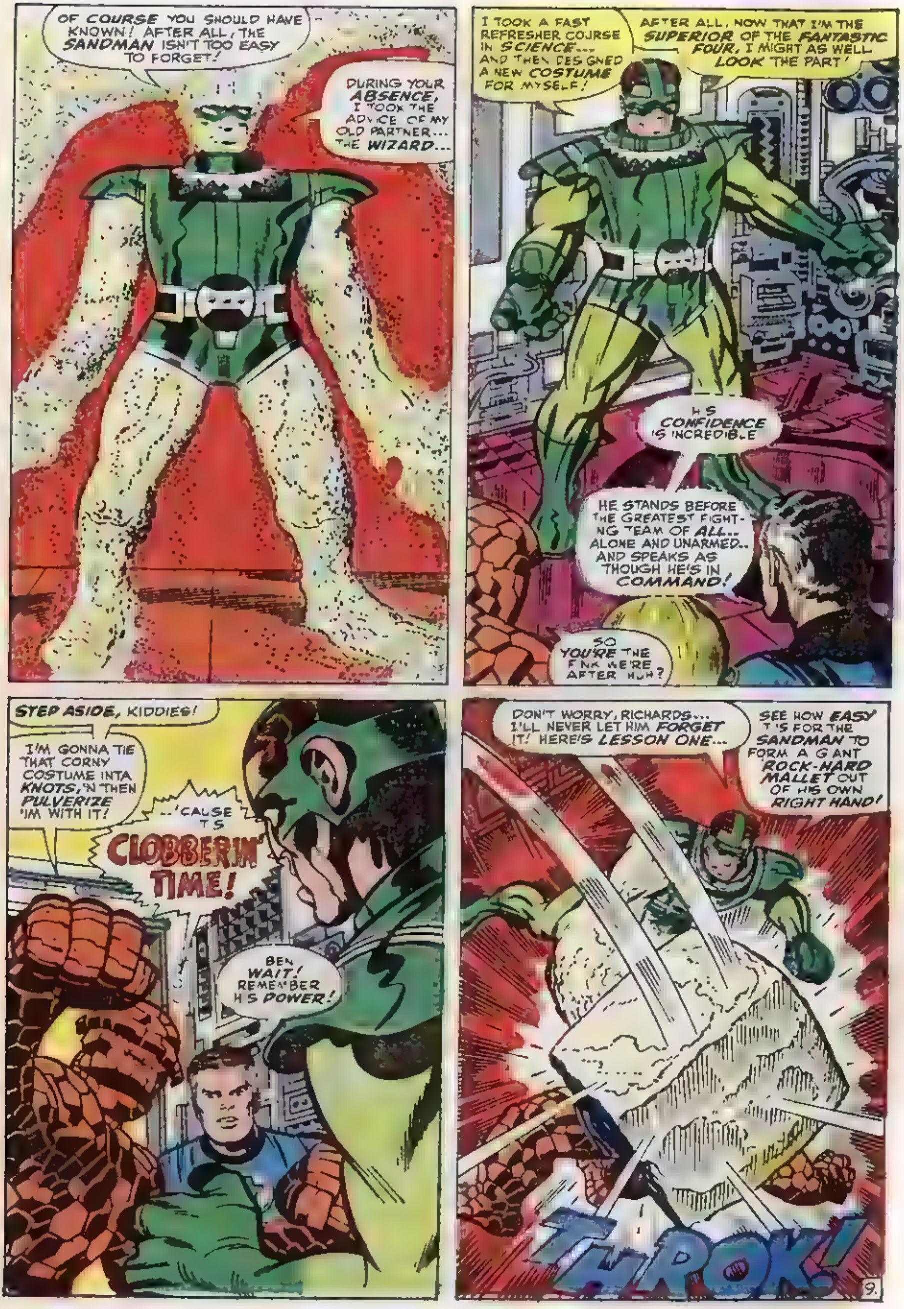

OF COURSE YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! AFTER ALL, THE SANDMAN ISN'T TOO EASY TO FORGET!
DURING YOUR ABSENCE, I TOOK THE ADVICE OF MY OLD PARTNER... THE WIZARD...
I TOOK A FAST REFRESHER COURSE IN SCIENCE... AND THEN DESIGNED A NEW COSTUME FOR MYSELF!
AFTER ALL, NOW THAT I'M THE SUPERIOR OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, I MIGHT AS WELL LOOK THE PART!
HIS CONFIDENCE IS INCREDIBLE
HE STANDS BEFORE THE GREATEST FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL.. ALONE AND UNARMED.. AND SPEAKS AS THOUGH HE'S IN COMMAND!
SO YOU'RE THE FINK WE'RE AFTER HUH?
STEP ASIDE, KIDDIES!
I'M GONNA TIE THAT CORNY COSTUME INTA KNOTS, 'N THEN PULVERIZE 'IM WITH IT!
...'CAUSE IT'S
CLOBBERIN' TIME!
BEN WAIT! REMEMBER HIS POWER!
DON'T WORRY, RICHARDS... I'LL NEVER LET HIM FORGET IT! HERE'S LESSON ONE...
SEE HOW EASY IT'S FOR THE SANDMAN TO FORM A GIANT ROCK-HARD MALLET OUT OF HIS OWN RIGHT HAND!
THROK!
9.

THEN, I SIMPLY RE-SHAPE MY HAND INTO A POWERFUL SHOVEL, PUSHING THE ORANGE ORANGUTAN INTO THAT WALL OF INSTRUMENTS!
WHILE I EASILY BLIND THE OUT-CLASSED MR. FANTASTIC BY TOSSING A THICK CLOUD OF SAND INTO HIS FACE!
SPOOSH!
THUP!
TRYING TO SHAKE THE SAND OUT OF YOUR EYES ARE YOU?
HERE! I'LL HELP YOU... AS ONLY THE SANDMAN CAN!
PA-THOK-A-THOK!
I'VE GOT TO TURN INVISIBLE AND REACH THE ELECTRIC HI-SPEED BLOWER!
IF I ACTIVATE IT IN TIME, IT MAY SCATTER SANDMAN INTO HELPLESSNESS!
THE GIRL! SHE'S VANISHED!.. TURNED INVISIBLE!
BUT THAT WON'T HELP HER!
ALL I NEED DO IS SPREAD SOME SAND ON THE FLOOR...
AND SEE WHERE SHE'S BY THE FOOT-PRINTS SHE LEAVES!
THEN, HOW EASY IT IS TO USE ONE OF THE MANY BUILT-IN DEVICES ON MY NEW COSTUME BELT...
DEVICES WHICH ENABLE ME TO MIX A VARIETY OF CHEMICALS WITH MY INVINCIBLE ALL-POWERFUL SAND!
WHAT--IS HE... GOING TO DO..?
10.

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER THE HARD-PRESSED GIRL HAS HER ANSWER--
HE MIXED A SLIPPERY OIL WITH THE SAND AT MY FEET!
CAN'T KEEP MY.. BALANCE..!
SPLOOSH!
HAH! I KNEW IT! I CAN BEAT ANY... OR ALL OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHENEVER I CHOOSE!
I'M JUST SORRY THE TORCH ISN'T HERE... BECAUSE I'VE A FEW SURPRISES WAITING FOR HIM, TOO!
NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN STAND UP TO THE MATCHLESS POWER OF THE SANDMAN!
BUT THEN, BEFORE THE GLOATING ARCH-FIEND CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, A LIGHTNING SWIFT FIST SHOOTS OUT, STRETCHING ACROSS THE ROOM WITH UNERRING ACCURACY AS THE BLUDGEONING IMPACT SCATTERS HIS SANDY GRAINS IN ALL DIRECTIONS--
SPTAK!
SANDMAN.. THE BIGGEST MISTAKE YOU CAN MAKE...IS TO MENACE MY WIFE!!
SUE, DARLING.. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, DEAR! ALTHOUGH, IF YOU HADN'T STRUCK BACK WHEN YOU DID--!
BUT, REED! I JUST REMEMBERED WHERE'S BEN??
BEN? THAT'S RIGHT.. HE.. OH NO!
HOLD IT, MAN! STAY STILL! DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE!
HE LANDED AGAINST THE SPACE-TIME GENERATOR LEVER!
IF HE MAKES A MOVE, IT COULD DESTROY THE CITY!

BUT SPEAKING OF MUSCLES LET'S REJOIN THE MIGHTY BLACK BOLT, AS HE AND HIS SMALL BAND OF INHUMANS ARE GATHERED IN A SECRET SHELTER, SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE..*
CRYSTAL! YOU MUST ALLOW LOCKJAW TO ROAM!
HE IS TOO BIG TO BE CONFINED IN THESE SMALL QUARTERS.
MEDUSA IS RIGHT! WE ALL KNOW OF YOUR ATTACHMENT FOR EACH OTHER -- BUT YOU CANNOT KEEP LOCKJAW ALWAYS AT YOUR SIDE!
OUR NEW HOME IS SUITABLE FOR ALL... EXCEPT ME! THERE MUST BE MORE WATER -- WHICH IS LIFE ITSELF TO TRITON!
PATIENCE, TRITON. BLACK BOLT HAS PROMISED MORE WATER.
I MUST, GORGON! HE IS MY ONLY MEANS OF REACHING JOHNNY STORM!
AND UNTIL JOHNNY AND I ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, NOTHING ELSE IN LIFE MATTERS TO ME.
* IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THE ICONOCLASTIC INHUMANS ARE, THEN YOU HAVEN'T BEEN READING OUR LAST ZILLION ISHES! SHAME ON YOU!... SORROWFUL STAN
I KNOW YOU WISH US TO REMAIN HIDDEN HERE, BLACK BOLT, UNTIL WE CAN BE CERTAIN THE HUMAN RACE WON'T ATTACK US.
BUT I'D RATHER FACE THE FURY OF ALL MANKIND, THAN SPEND ANOTHER DAY... ANOTHER HOUR... WITHOUT THE ONE I LOVE!
LOCKJAW CAN BRING ME TO HIM... THROUGH HIS POWER TO SPAN THE DIMENSIONS. ALL WE NEED IS YOUR CONSENT.
PLEASE, BLACK BOLT, PERMIT ME TO LEAVE! DON'T DENY THAT WHICH I DESIRE MOST OF ALL!
I KNOW I'LL BE SAFE! AFTER ALL... I LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN!
HE NODS HIS APPROVAL, MY SISTER. YOU HAVE YOUR PERMISSION. MAY GOOD LUCK ALSO BE YOURS!
BLACK BOLT... I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH!
I KNEW... I JUST KNEW YOU WOULDN'T FAIL ME!
SEE? LOCKJAW UNDERSTANDS! HE HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO HARNESS THE ENERGY HE'LL NEED!
FAREWELL, MY BELOVED FAMILY! I PRAY SOMEDAY WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN FOR ALWAYS.
12

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# "We're looking for people who like to draw"

## says NORMAN ROCKWELL

Today hundreds of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank a group of famous artists who have devoted much of their time and talent to helping others find success in art.

### Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

### A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

### Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

**FOUNDING FACULTY OF FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS**

NORMAN ROCKWELL, FRED LUDEKENS, JON WHITCOMB, BEN STAHL, AL PARKER, ROBERT FAWCETT, STEVAN DOHANOS, AUSTIN BRIGGS, GEORGE GIUSTI, HAROLD VON SCHMIDT, PETER HELCK, ALBERT DORNE

**Famous Artists Schools**
**Studio 5252, Westport, Conn.**

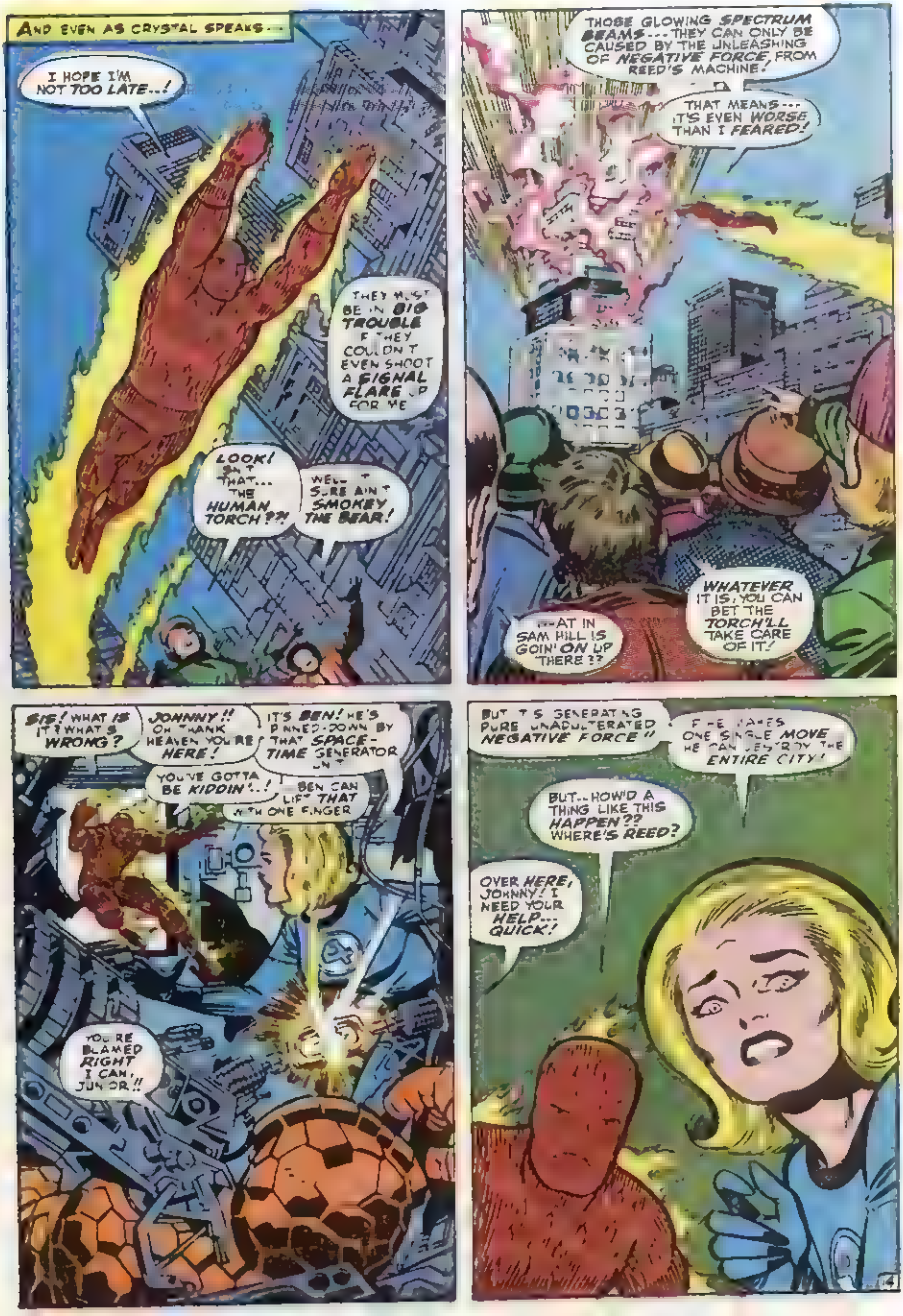
I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

*Mr.*
*Mrs.* ________________ *Age* ____
*Miss* ← *Circle one and please print*

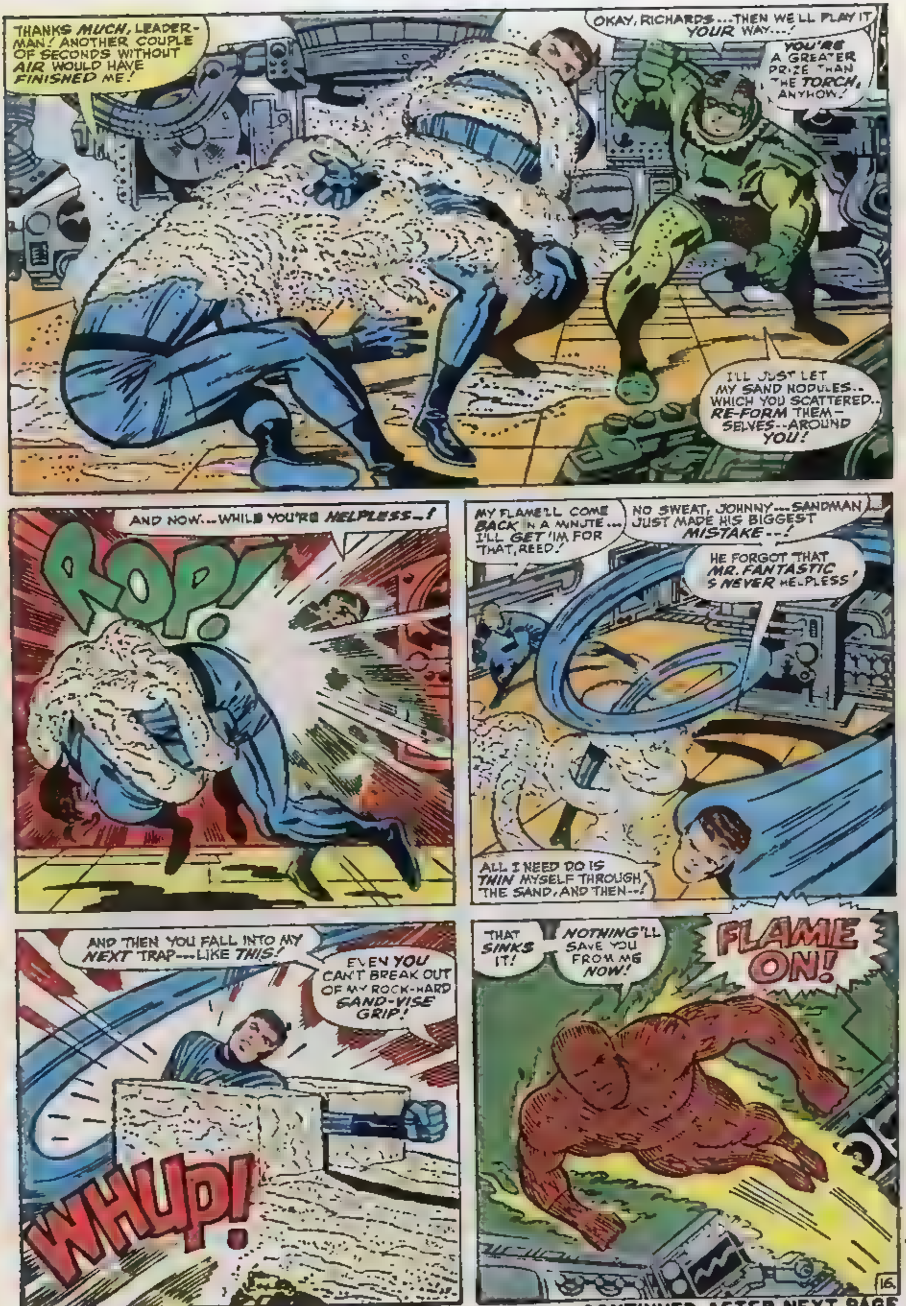
*Street* ________________

*City* ________________

*State* ________________ *Zip* ____


AND EVEN AS CRYSTAL SPEAKS---
I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE..!
THEY MUST BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF THEY COULDN'T EVEN SHOOT A SIGNAL FLARE UP FOR ME
LOOK! ISN'T THAT... THE HUMAN TORCH??!
WELL IT SURE AIN'T SMOKEY, THE BEAR!
THOSE GLOWING SPECTRUM BEAMS--- THEY CAN ONLY BE CAUSED BY THE UNLEASHING OF NEGATIVE FORCE, FROM REED'S MACHINE!
THAT MEANS--- IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I FEARED!
WHAT IN SAM HILL IS GOIN' ON UP THERE??
WHATEVER IT IS, YOU CAN BET THE TORCH'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
SIS! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
JOHNNY!! OH THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE HERE!
IT'S BEN! HE'S PINNED-DOWN BY THAT SPACE-TIME GENERATOR UNIT
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN'..! BEN CAN LIFT THAT WITH ONE FINGER
YOU'RE BLAMED RIGHT I CAN, JUNIOR!!
BUT IT'S GENERATING PURE UNADULTERATED NEGATIVE FORCE!
IF HE MAKES ONE SINGLE MOVE HE CAN DESTROY THE ENTIRE CITY!
BUT..HOW'D A THING LIKE THIS HAPPEN?? WHERE'S REED?
OVER HERE, JOHNNY! I NEED YOUR HELP... QUICK!
14

IT'S THE SANDMAN! HE'S LOCKED HIMSELF IN THE SPACE-TIME CHAMBER!!
THEN PUT THAT TOY AWAY, BROTHER-IN-LAW...
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BURN MY WAY THROUGH TO HIM IN TIME WITH THIS ACETYLENE TORCH!
SPACE RESEARC
DANGER
...AND LET'S DO IT MY WAY!
EASY, LAD. WITHOUT PERFECT CONTROL, YOUR FLAME MIGHT JAR THE SPACE-TIME GENERATOR!
HAVE NO FEAR WHEN TORCHY'S HERE! THERE! I'M THROUGH!
NOW, ALL I HAVETA DO IS... REED! THERE'S A BIG SAND CYLINDER HERE! HE WAS WAITING FOR ME. I CAN'T DODGE-- UNNHH!!
GET OUT OF IT, BOY-- GET OUT... BEFORE IT SMOTHERS YOUR FLAME!
THTUM!
TOO LATE, RICHARDS! I WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM!
THIS'LL SNUFF HIM OUT LIKE A CANDLE!
AND NOW, I'LL FINISH YOU OFF JUST AS EASY..!
DON'T COUNT ON IT, SANDMAN!
JOHNNY CAN STILL HOLD OUT IF HE'S FREED IN TIME!
AND I'M JUST THE ONE TO DO IT!
FTHAK!
5

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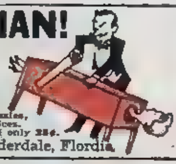

Vick Lawston, Dept MC27, NE Fifth Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Flordia

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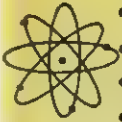

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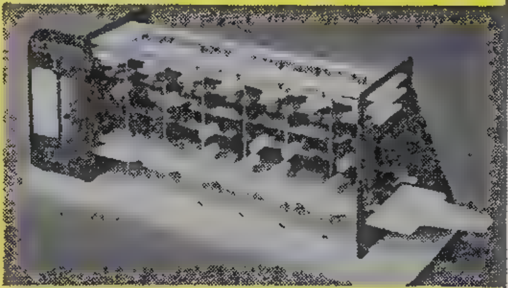

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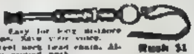

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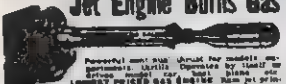

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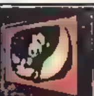

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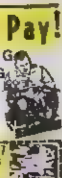

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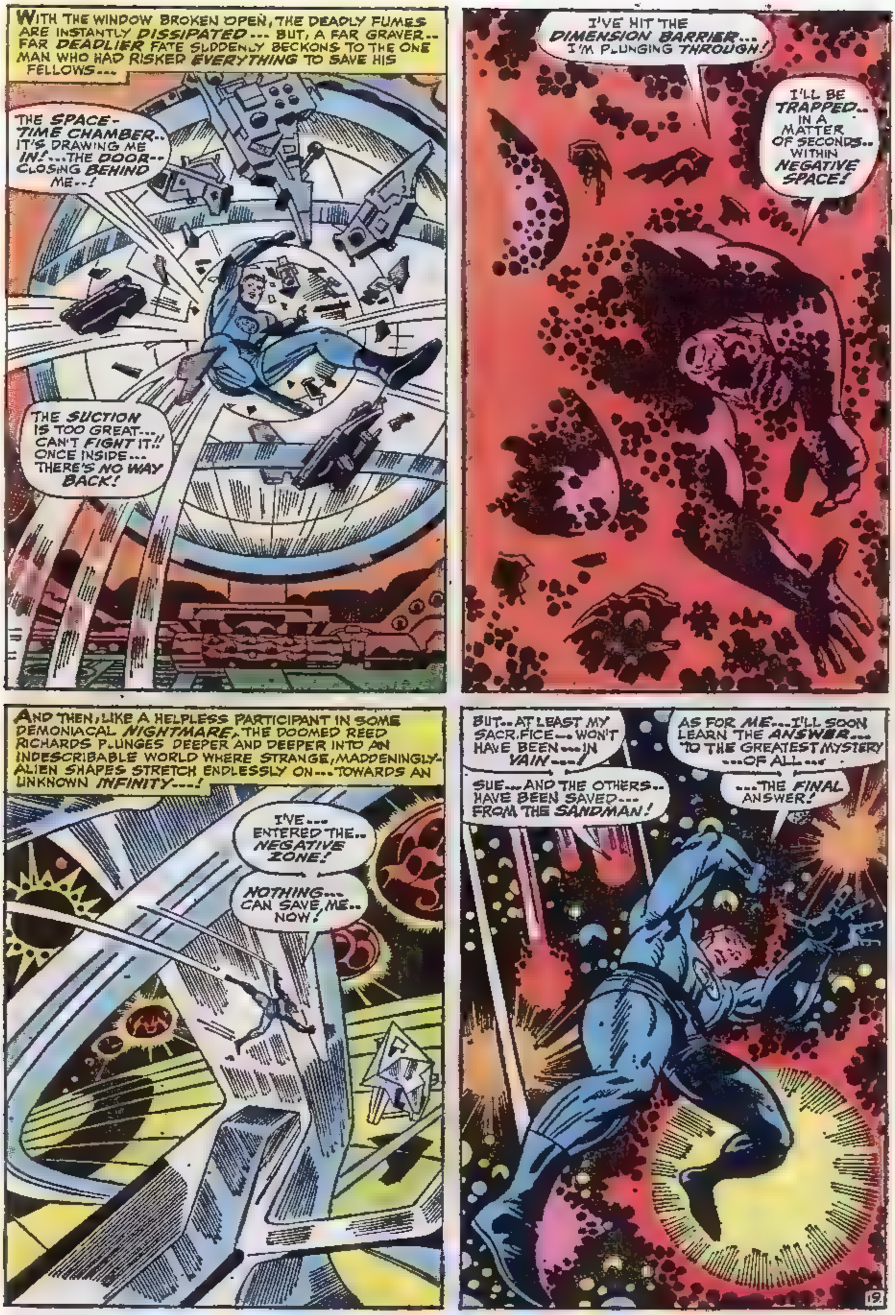
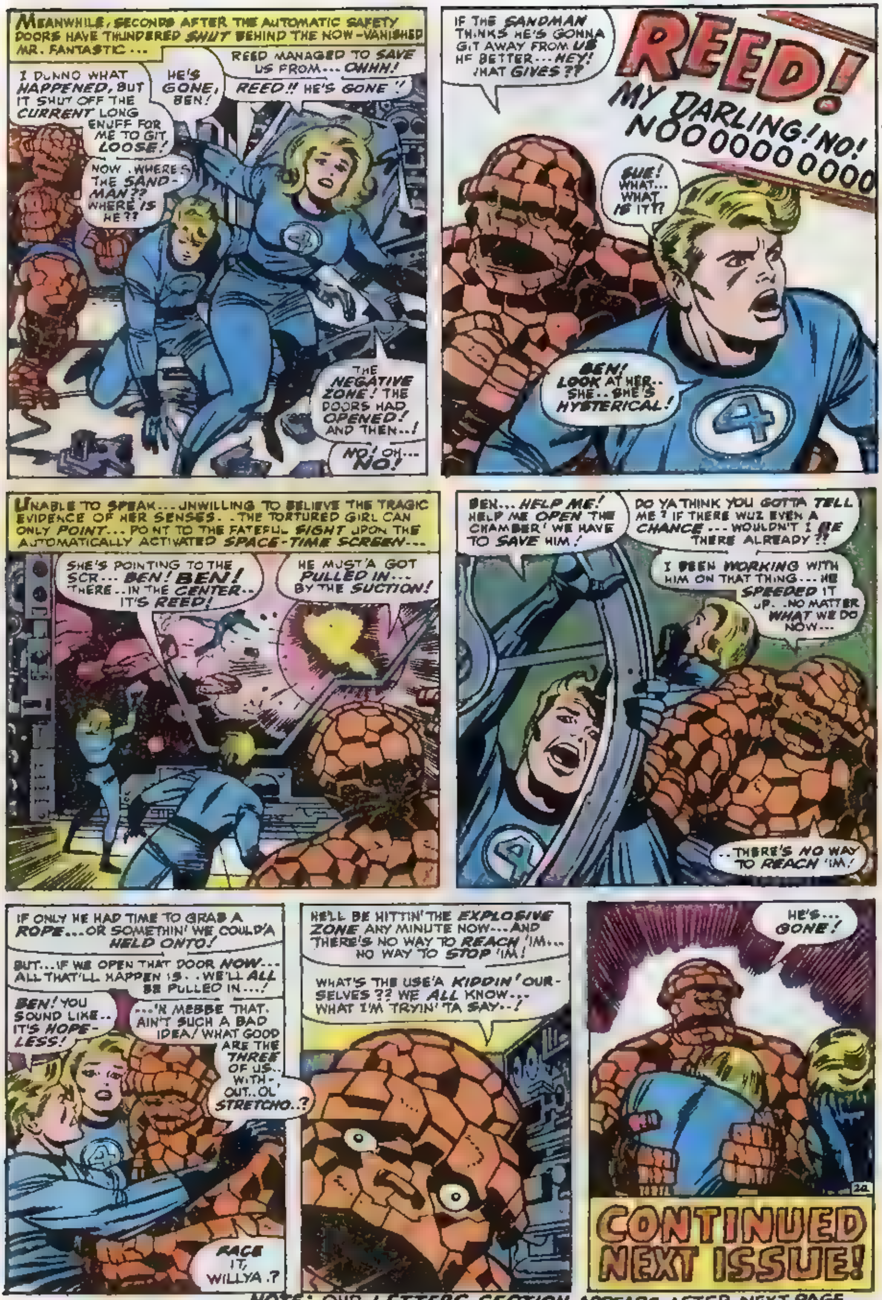
MAYBE I CAN'T DODGE YOUR FIERY ATTACK... BUT I'VE ANOTHER WAY OUT...!
I DIDN'T ADD THESE CONTROL BUTTONS TO MY NEW COSTUME JUST FOR SHOW!
KNOWING I'D HAVE TO FACE YOUR FLAMING ATTACK SOONER OR LATER, THE WIZARD GAVE ME THE PERFECT MEANS TO STOP YOU..!
BY RELEASING A QUANTITY OF LIQUID NITROGEN, MY SANDY MOLECULES IMMEDIATELY FREEZE!
THEN, AS SOON AS YOUR NOW-USELESS FLAME CONTACTS ME, THE CHEMICAL COMBINATION GIVES OFF A POWERFUL, POISONOUS VAPOR..!
OR, PERHAPS YOU'VE ALREADY NOTICED IT?!!
REED! MY FLAME'S OUT AGAIN ... FUMES FILLING THE ROOM..!
CAN'T.. CATCH MY... BREATH...
THE SANDMAN...ISN'T AFFECTED... BUT WE... HAVE TO DO SOMETHING... OR..IT'S ALL OVER..!
SUE... YOU AND JOHNNY... GRAB ONE OF THE PIPES NEARBY..!
HOLD ON... FOR DEAR LIFE! DON'T LET GO... FOR ANYTHING..!
I'VE GOT TO OPEN THE DOOR..TO..THE NEGATIVE ZONE..!
BUT...YOU ALWAYS WARNED US..TOLD US..NEVER TO OPEN IT..!
BUT NOW...IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE..!
HANG ON! ...HERE GOES..!
17

A MICRO-SECOND LATER, THE ENTIRE CHAMBER IS FILLED WITH A BLINDING, UNEARTHLY GREEN LIGHT--- AS AN UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL SUCTION CAUSES THE DEADLY GAS--- AND EVERYTHING ELSE WITHIN RANGE-- TO HURTLE TOWARDS THE CENTER OF THE LIGHT SOURCE---!
HOLD ON, SUE! DON'T LET GO IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE! JOHNNY.. YOU TOO--- GRAB A STEEL PIPE FOR SUPPORT--- MOVE, BOY!!
I'M TRYING.. BUT-- THE PRESSURE--- TOO STRONG-- CAN'T SEE---
TO YOUR LEFT---REACH OUT-- REACH, JOHNNY--!
I GOT IT! IT'S HOLDING ME! BUT-- EVERYTHING ELSE--- FLYING PAST--- HOW-- DO WE--- STOP IT--?
WE'VE UNLEASHED SOMETHING--- MUCH MORE DANGEROUS--- THAN THE SANDMAN--!
AND, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM--- A DAZED, UNCOMPREHENDING FIGURE FEELS THE SEETHING SENSATION OF BLIND PANIC WELLING WITHIN HIM---
I NEVER BARGAINED FOR ANYTHING--- LIKE THIS!
IT'S LIKE--- THE END OF THE WORLD!
I MADE MY FEET--- LIKE SANDY ANCHORS--- BUT THEY CAN'T HOLD ME--- MUCH LONGER--!
IT'S STARTING TO PULL ME--- TOWARDS THE OPEN DOOR--- INTO--- WHAT?
THE FORCE IS GETTING STRONGER--- PULLING TOO HARD--- CAN'T FIGHT IT!
BUT IT WON'T GET ME---!
THERE'S STILL ONE WAY OUT---!
THEN, FORGETTING HIS CRUCIAL BATTLE WITH THE FF--- FORGETTING HOW CLOSE HE HAD SEEMED TO ULTIMATE VICTORY--- FORGETTING EVERYTHING SAVE THE MENACE THAT LOOMS AHEAD--- SANDMAN LEAPS---
KLLASH!
THE WINDOW-- I MADE IT!


WITH THE WINDOW BROKEN OPEN, THE DEADLY FUMES ARE INSTANTLY DISSIPATED--- BUT, A FAR GRAVER-- FAR DEADLIER FATE SUDDENLY BECKONS TO THE ONE MAN WHO HAD RISKED EVERYTHING TO SAVE HIS FELLOWS---
THE SPACE-TIME CHAMBER-- IT'S DRAWING ME IN!---THE DOOR-- CLOSING BEHIND ME--!
THE SUCTION IS TOO GREAT--- CAN'T FIGHT IT!! ONCE INSIDE--- THERE'S NO WAY BACK!
I'VE HIT THE DIMENSION BARRIER--- I'M PLUNGING THROUGH!
I'LL BE TRAPPED-- IN A MATTER OF SECONDS-- WITHIN NEGATIVE SPACE!
AND THEN, LIKE A HELPLESS PARTICIPANT IN SOME DEMONIACAL NIGHTMARE, THE DOOMED REED RICHARDS PLUNGES DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO AN INDESCRIBABLE WORLD WHERE STRANGE, MADDENINGLY-ALIEN SHAPES STRETCH ENDLESSLY ON---TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN INFINITY---!
I'VE--- ENTERED THE-- NEGATIVE ZONE!
NOTHING--- CAN SAVE ME-- NOW!
BUT--AT LEAST MY SACRIFICE--WON'T HAVE BEEN---IN VAIN---!
SUE---AND THE OTHERS-- HAVE BEEN SAVED--- FROM THE SANDMAN!
AS FOR ME---I'LL SOON LEARN THE ANSWER--- TO THE GREATEST MYSTERY ---OF ALL---
---THE FINAL ANSWER!
19




NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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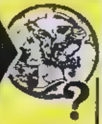

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# A BATTY BARRAGE OF BOMBASTIC BULLETINS: BURSTIN' WITH BI-PARTISAN BANTER, BARE-FACED BANALITY, AND UNABASHED BULL!

**DIDJA KNOW?** The Marvel Super-Heroes Show on TV is seen in far-off Australia, Japan, Uruguay, Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and even Kalamazoo! (Of course, none of those exotic places mentioned are far-off if you happen to *live* there – but, we're sure you get the idea!) As for the candid, capricious comments of our cavortin' critics-at-large—it seems that most merry Marvelites think it's a blast—and they're relieved that our crazy cartoons are reasonably true to the spirit of the mags themselves. As for us, we're going batty trying to keep up with all the shows. In some cities the program is presented five nights a week during the prime-time evening hours, in other cities, it's on the air three nights a week—and in some, it's shown during the afternoons. Some channels feature their own M.C.'s introducing the cartoons while some just put our fabulous little fables on the air without any other whoop-de-do. As for the ratings, we've learned that in most of the key cities where the show is presented, it's been clobbering all the opposition — thanks, no doubt, to the support of loyal Marvel-men everywhere! By the way, we still receive some mail from desperate devotees in areas where Marvel Super-Heroes is not yet televised, asking how they can compel their local channels to get with it. Since we're in the business of producing comic mags, and the TV end is something as new to us as it is to you, we can only suggest that those of you whose cities are still Marvel Super-Hero-less write to your favorite local channels and try to make 'em see the error of their ways! Although, at the rate TV stations thruout the free world are hopping on the madcap Marvel bandwagon, there may not be any culturally underprivileged cities left by the time this meritorious message sees print! And now — one last important point: If you've any cataclysmic comments about the show — anything you like, or loathe—send 'em on to your local station. Simply introduce yourself as one of Marvel's fabulous faithful and pour it on 'em. Just as your hitin' letters have been a truly vital factor in maintaining the quality of the mag you're now reading, so will they help to make our Marvel Super-Heroes Show the kind of TV fare you want it to be! If you like the show's announcer, or think he's for the birds — if you wanna discuss the hour at which it's televised, or the manner in which it's presented, or even if you just wanna write and say "Face Front!", take pen in hand and DO it, tiger — your local channel will love hearin' from you, and your Bullpen buddies won't haveta worry about you becoming inhibited! And now — on to other equally earth-shattering items.

**DIDJA KNOW?** Genial GENE COLAN bought himself a motorcycle a short while ago and chewed our ears off telling us how great it was. A few days later he came to the Bullpen with a couple of bandaged elbows and a sheepish expression. Today, he's riding around in a swingy little sedan once again, leaving the cycle bit for guys like Peter Parker and his ilk! After all, Spidey doesn't haveta worry about *his* drawing hand!

**DIDJA KNOW:** Speaking of bandages 'n stuff, someone over at Brand Echh must be sticking pins in a Marvel doll! Just a few weeks ago, Larrupin' LARRY LIEBER (Ol' Rawhide Kid himself) bent down to pick up an art eraser and suddenly sprained his sacroiliac when he straightened up! It meant a week of bed-rest for luckless Larry while ol' Rawhide had to fend for himself. Then, we no sooner got our little invalid on his feet again than *whammo*, Wild BILL EVERETT did practically the same thing to *his* sacroiliac while stepping off a bus! Bill is great on submarines, bucking broncos, and surf-boards—but these ordinary, slow-moving busses—*yeeesh!* Anyway, Mr. Sub-Mariner was also flat on his back for a week while the rest of us spent our time making sure our hospitalization policies are all paid up! You never *knew* it was so dangerous producing comics, eh?

**DIDJA KNOW?** When Marvel hires a new art associate, we don't kid around—we get our money's worth. Step up and meet JOHNNY VERPOORTEN, our newest Bullpen backup man. Jumbo John is six feet, six inches tall, and tips the scales at a mere 290 pounds! (He thinks we latched onto him to do artwork for us—but wait'll he sees the costume we're making for him! All we have to do is trick him into it, and we'll have a new, ready-made super-hero to unleash upon mankind!)

**DIDJA KNOW?** Rascally ROY THOMAS just let the cat out of the bag, admitting that he gave up a scholarship to George Washington University just to write for Marvel! He would have studied world events at G.W.U., and might have ended up becoming a diplomat! However, knowing how the ol' rapscallion shoots his mouth off, he might also have accidentally started World War III—so, we figure mighty Marvel has saved humanity once more by keeping Mr. T. chained to his typewriter.

**DIDJA KNOW?** Jolly JACK KIRBY'S ears must be really burning. Every comics mag fan has his own personal favorite among all the artists employed by all the different companies—but, when it comes to the opinion of the pro's themselves—when it comes to naming the ARTISTS' ARTIST, there isn't even a contest! Every time the conversation here at the Bullpen gets around to artwork (and what ELSE is there to talk about?), you should hear the top men in the field lower their voices when the name of King Kirby comes up. It's generally agreed that, when you talk of super-hero illustration; of action drawing; of imaginative conceptions; of dynamic, double-barrelled drama, Marvel's many-faceted master simply has no peer! There is hardly a pro pencil-pusher in the field today who hasn't been influenced by Jolly Jack's memorable masterpieces — or by the constantly shattering impact of his creativity. Don't be embarrassed, Jack — this is just Stan's cornball way of telling you that it's been a ball all these years, pal — and the best is still ahead!

**THE WRAP-UP!**—We're plumb outta room, so hang loose and face front! Life's a swingin' symphony, and we don't wantcha to miss a note of it! 'Nuff said!

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**SPIDER-MAN #47:** We can't wait till you see Jazzy Johnny Romita's version of Kraven the Hunter! And, remember the Green Goblin? Well —

**AVENGERS #38:** Cap absent on leave, the Black Widow behind the Bamboo Curtain —and now, the fateful challenge of the peerless Prince of Power—Hercules!

**X-MEN #30:** Our marvelous mutants face the wondrous wizardry—or is it the super-scientific genius—of a foe aptly named . . the Warlock!

**DAREDEVIL #26:** At last—the secret identity of the Masked Marauder revealed—plus the reappearance of the sensational, sinister, startling Stiltman!

**THOR #138:** See the God of Thunder battle the unbearable Ulik for the life of stunning Sif! And, wait'll you meet up with the mysterious, awesome Orikal!

**STRANGE TALES #155:** Nick Fury faces his greatest challenge—from within S.H.I.E.L.D. itself! As for Dr. Strange, the only way he can save Clea—is to lose her!

**SUSPENSE #88:** You'll never forget Iron Man's last-ditch combat with the Mole Man's legions! And, can Bucky really be alive again, as Cap battles Power Man and the Swordsman?

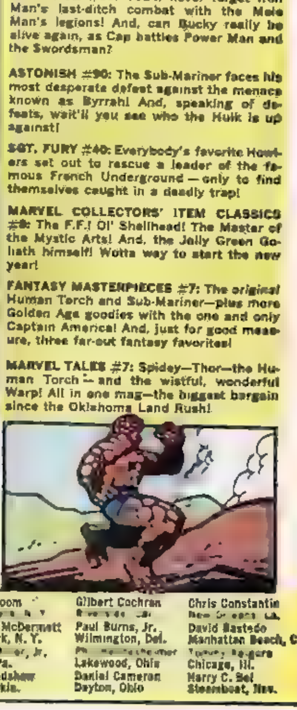
**ASTONISH #90:** The Sub-Mariner faces his most desperate defeat against the menace known as Byrrah! And, speaking of defeats, wait'll you see who the Hulk is up against!

**SGT. FURY #40:** Everybody's favorite Howlers set out to rescue a leader of the famous French Underground — only to find themselves caught in a deadly trap!

**MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #8:** The F.F.! Ol' Shellhead! The Master of the Mystic Arts! And, the Jolly Green Goliath himself! Wotta way to start the new year!

**FANTASY MASTERPIECES #7:** The *original* Human Torch and Sub-Mariner—plus more Golden Age goodies with the one and only Captain America! And, just for good measure, three far-out fantasy favorites!

**MARVEL TALES #7:** Spidey—Thor—the Human Torch — and the wistful, wonderful Warp! All in one mag—the biggest bargain since the Oklahoma Land Rush!



**Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!**

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Michael Goodin, Detroit, Mich.
Gordon Bryan, Nashville, Tenn.
John Harwood, Lexington, Mass.
[illegible], [illegible] Park, Mich.
Leo Mascinch, Edmonton, Alta.
Wade Hendbee, [illegible]
Martin King, Atlanta, Ga.
[illegible], Yankinville, N. C.
John Martinez, Dallas, Tex.
Pat Burridge, [illegible]
George Huey, Vancouver, Br. Col.
[illegible], Phila., Pa.
Tapio La HenLampi, Onaping, Ont.
Billy Bloom, [illegible]
Thomas McDermott, New York, N. Y.
James M[illegible], Jr., Phila., Pa.
Tom Bradshaw, Tulsa, Okla.
Gilbert Cochran, [illegible]
Paul Burns, Jr., Wilmington, Del.
[illegible], Lakewood, Ohio
Daniel Cameron, Dayton, Ohio
Chris Constantin, [illegible], La.
David Bastedo, Manhattan Beach, Cal.
[illegible], Chicago, Ill.
Harry C. Bel, Steamboat, Nev.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
ACT OF OCTOBER 23, 1962; SECTION 4369, TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE

1. Date of Filing: October 1, 1966.

2. Title of Publication: FANTASTIC FOUR.

3. Frequency of Issue: 12 times a year.

4. Location of Known Office of Publication: 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

6. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor and managing editor are: Publisher, Martin Goodman, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022; Editor: Stan Lee, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022; Managing Editor: None.

7. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.) Canam Publishers Sales Corp., 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022; Martin Goodman, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

8. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities (If there are none, so state) are: None.

9. Paragraphs 7 and 8 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. Names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders of a corporation which itself is a stockholder or holder of bonds, mortgages or other securities of the publishing corporation have been included in paragraphs 7 and 8 when the interests of such individuals are equivalent to 1 percent or more of the total amount of the stock or securities of the publishing corporation.

10. This item must be completed for all publications except those which do not carry advertising other than the publisher's own, and which are named in sections 132.231, 132.232, and 132.233 Postal Manual (Sections 4355a, 4355b, and 4356 of Title 39 United States Code).

A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 538,152; single issue nearest to filing date 627,362.

B. Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 326,979; single issue nearest to filing date 359,000. 2) Mail subscriptions: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 2,400; single issue nearest to filing date 2,400.

C. Total paid circulation: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 329,379; single issue nearest to filing date 361,400.

D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 60; single issue nearest to filing date 40.

E. Total distribution (sum of C and D): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 329,439; single issue nearest to filing date 361,440.

F. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 208,713; single issue nearest to filing date: 265,922.

G. Total (sum of E & F—should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 538,152; single issue nearest to filing date 627,362.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) JOHN F. HAYES
(Business Manager)

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# Fantastic Four Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

Congratulations on F.F. #57—it was really in the Marvel tradition of greatness. I just have to compliment you on everything in the mag. First off, the cover was tremendous! The Kirby-Sinnott team really knocked itself out on this one. The giant head of Dr. Doom was enough to scare the living daylights out of Daredevil! The artwork inside was beautiful, but that's nothing new. Jack and Joe almost made Dr. Doom human—take, for instance, page 5, panel 2. The return of the Silver Surfer, the Sandman, the Wizard, the Inhumans, and Dr. Doom all in one ish was too much! Now, the story—Stan, this was one of your best. Your characterization of Dr. Doom was magnificent. Those first three panels on page 13 were really great, not to mention those of pages 19 and 20. Now here's my hunch on Black Bolt. He doesn't talk because he sounds like Donald Duck! But, seriously, I think that the sound of Black Bolt's voice would reverse the charge of the Atmo-Gun and the Negative Zone would cease to exist. How about that? I'll close this letter with a universe-shaking query—why does Dr. Doom have a goal-post in his mouth?

Bill Homah, 2501 Washington St.
Wilmington, Dela. 19802.

**It's not a goal-post, Billy—it's a nucleonic spandifier which is composed of sub-isotronic manifestatory neutrons, in conjunction with — aww, the heck with it! Have it your way, pal—it's a goal-post! And congratulations right back at you for your educated guess about Black Bolt! Are you sure you're not related to Doc Strange?**

Dear Stan and Jack,

You've practically made a complete reversal in Dr. Doom's personality. In the first place, Doom has always been a benevolent dictator. If you recall, in a past F.F. Annual, Victor Von Doom always helped his gypsy followers, and they loved and respected him. Later, when he became supreme ruler of Latveria, he treated his subjects kindly, even if he did try to frazzle the world. Ultimate punishment—ha! I can just see ol' Doc Doom making some poor guy read Brand Echh comics. Which brings to mind another misrepresentation — Doom wouldn't get all that shook about someone bumping into him. He'd probably go for the 'Clumsy Dolt' routine and leave it at that. Doom's got some cool, you know. It's Namor that gets all bent when people "profane his princely person with their clutching hands". And that performance he put on for the Silver Surfer—egads! What a ham! Doom can act better than that, for goodness sake! And that bit about having his serfs set his tower to rights is silly. Even if they did a good job, they'd have to use new mortar, and it wouldn't look ancient like the rest of the castle. I'd make that Silver Surfer put every last molecule back in place, by George. All in all, you portrayed Doom with absolutely no class. And, above all, Doctor Doom has class.

Nancy Newton, 16428 Cornuta
Bellflower, Cal.

**Well, Nan — live and learn, we always say! Now that we know the estimable doctor has a fan club of at least one frantic femme, we'll try to see to it that he maintains his cool at all times! And, if we should fumble the ball again, please feel free to let us know. (As if anything could *stop* ya!)**

Dear Stan and Jack,

Now you've done it. You've made me fall head over heels for F.F. #58. You've put brave, beautiful, blue-eyed Ben at his ever-lovin' best. You've shown the evil Doc Doom in his unscrupulous, undoubtful cruelty. You've put Sue and Reed in their Marvelistic perfection. And you've made ol' Match-head fight like a true hero. Wyatt proved himself to be better than any regular Yancy Streeter. The F.F. went down like champs, yet I still feel that they haven't fully lost yet. They haven't tasted the sourness of defeat, but devoured a sweetness instilled in them; knowing they have lost one battle but not the war. Doom must be defeated. Doom will be defeated in the manner deserving of the F.F.! I have but one devout desire I must get off my chest. I yearn to see Johnny reunited with Crystal for just a few mere minutes in the way only you two can tell. I loved issue #56. In the name of the Eternal Galactus, keep it up. I promise that you will have only best-sellers on your hands. I watch your Marvel TV program daily, and I like Hulk the best—it's a blast!

Wayne Witkowski, 128 Central Ave.
Jersey City, N. J.

**So *you're* the one who's been watching! We had a hunch there was a viewer out there somewhere! Anyway, you're a lucky lad, dad! You're about to get your wish! Johnny and Chrys *will* be united—we don't know how *long* the reunion will last (because we haven't written the following yarns yet!), but reunited they *shall* be! We have *spoken!***

Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. #56 was truly a superb masterpiece. The story and art are superior to all comic books, magazines, and paintings. No man could outwrite stupendous Stan or outdraw colossal Kirby. But I would like to praise you on your letters page. I read the letter from Henry Clay and was very impressed. Most comic book companies wouldn't ever write an answer like the one you printed. They would give some bland, sickening answer, but you came out with just exactly what you thought. The answer was excellent. You don't merely print a book, you also make a way of life. Many thanks.

Alan Bentzel, Villa Allendo
Cordoba, Argentina

**You're welcome, Al—and many thanks to *you* for your kind words. Unfortunately, we don't have a copy of ish #56 nearby right now, so we can't remember what our answer was . . . but, if it satisfied one True Believer—if it contained one little gem of philosophy which warmed the cockles of thy trusting heart—then truly, we have been rewarded enow! Adios, amigo!**

Dear Stan and Jack,

I happened to be reading the F.F.'s fan page when suddenly I came upon an ignominious letter written by an impertinent fan. His perverse letter was enough stimulus to compel every part of my body into instantaneous action. He slurred the Black Panther superfluously. I endeavored to contrive a means of defending him. A true Marvelite likes anything you guys put out, unless they are ex-Marvelites. They've got their nerve, those fallen faithless, knocking you—the most marvelous Marvelites of all—about the Panther and your honorable funnies and jokes. That's what makes Marvel Marvel! I feel that my reprimand is just. I like Wyatt Wingfoot and am proud of the strain of Indian which flows through my own veins. Give

Hercules, the Inhumans, and the Black Panther their own mags, or let them share one. May Marvel diffuse and become immortal! Verily, it is 'nuff said!

Mark Thomas, 5995 Stewart R.
Cincinnati, 27, Ohio

**May we *become* immortal? By the bludgeoning blasphemy of Brand Echh—we thought we already *were!* Ah well, another image shattered! But, so long as 'twas done by a dedicated devotee such as yourself, Mark ol' man, the cut is not deep—the hurt not as severe as might have been! And, worry thou not about the Black Panther. Though he may have a poor, deluded detractor or two, he only frets about it on his way to the bank!**

Dear Stan and Jack,

It seems that your letters pages are nothing but super compliments nowadays. It gets a little boring reading all of those artsie-craftsie, philosophical outlooks of some of your readers. Overall, Marvel magazines are the most fabulous reading material you can lay your hands on. They are habit-forming—I couldn't stop reading Marvels if my life depended on it. I mean I get so worked up when I know the new ishes are coming that I have a hard time studying. They might even lead to the downfall of my brilliant career. But seriously, one thing that really bothers me is the exaggerated powers of some of your villains. Dr. Doom is great, but with the power of the Silver Surfer, he gets a little beyond comprehension. If he wanted to, he could wipe out all of Marvel's super-heroes with the flick of his wrist. I think a lot of Marvelites will agree with me that you can carry the powers of your characters too far into the realm of fantasy. You should keep all of your characters on the level of Spider-Man, Daredevil, and the Hulk. Well, no matter, I'll read Stan's literature over Hemingway and Dostoyevsky any day.

Mike Johnson, 575 Main Ave.
Bayhead, N. J.

**We appreciate your sentiments, Mike—and don't wanna shrug off so lavish a compliment. But, if you're talking about comic strips, well and good — however, if you're equating our flippant little fables with the monumental prose produced by the two gents you've named, we'd be perfectly satisfied to be third on the list! In fact, just being mentioned in the same company is enough to knock us out of our trees! But, just between us, how do you equate such sterling sentiments with the first few senses-shattering sentences of your epic epistle? Oh well—if it was easy to figure out, you wouldn't be a Marvelite!**

Dear Stan and Jack,

"The fabulous F.F. thought they had trouble enough, but then . . ." My compliments to the whole Bullpen for turning out issue #57! It was outstanding the way it kicked off with eight super action panels starring the F.F. and the one and only Sandman. It was short, but one of the best fights in Marvel history. As for the ol' Surfer, as they say, "Curiosity killed the cat," and the Silver Surfer is the cat—what a cat! The idea of the S.S. showing off his goodies to Doc Doom was great—he really put himself on the hot spot that time. Those panels on pages 14 and 15 were superb. While on the subject of art, it was another masterpiece in the Marvel Age of Comics. What a suspenseful ending—looks like the F.F. have their hands full!

Mike Kelley, 7312 Bell Dr., Rt. #1
Colo. Springs, Colo. 80907

**Fuller than ever right now, wouldn'tcha say, M. K.? But never fear—things can't remain so desperate forever. They're bound to get worse!**

Dear Stan and Jack,

My roommate and I have been reading your Marvel masterpieces for some time now, and I must say they have become the latest and strongest craze here at the Theta Xi house. Our special favorites are F.F. and THOR. However, during this time, we have noticed one thing which disturbs us considerably . . . namely, the letters page in each of your mags. Howcum every letter in F.F. is addressed "Dear Stan and Jack" and every letter in SUSPENSE is written to "Dear Stan"? And, in fact, in each of your magazines, all the letters are opened in exactly the same manner! Doesn't anybody ever use a greeting like "Dear Muttonhead" or "Salutations to Ye Editor" or something different like that? Is it some sort of inviolable rule that all letters for publication have to open the same way? Or do you change any greetings which do not follow this S.O.P.? You'll notice that I addressed the letter in the standard prescribed manner, but this is in fear of the wrath which may befall me should I not subscribe to some obscure, unwritten code in regard to fan letters. I ask only because I am very meek, and try hard to please, and don't want to offend you should I have an urge to do something wrong in the future. One last thing, do you think the Torch would accept a Theta Xi pledge pin, worth oodles of no-prizes? I would consent to being his pledge-father and would guide him assiduously through the rigors of his freshman year. Keep up the good work which is second to none—'nuff said.

Grant Canfield
Theta Xi Fraternity, Washington Univ.
St. Louis, Mo. 61310

**You have raised a very interesting metaphysical question, Grant! Why are all our L.P. salutations the same? But, alas—our answer is destined to reveal no profound philosophical truths—for, in plain point of fact, Fabulous Flo — our fascinatin' Gal Friday — is a stickler for conformity (in correspondence, at any rate), and she's the one who re-types 'em all! As for the much-touted Torch, he'd be honored to be a Theta Xi pledge (or is it "pledgeling"?) — although his step-daddies, Stan and Jack, are green with envy! Face front, droll one—your letter broke us up!**

NEXT ISH: The fate of Mr. Fantastic! (As if we had to tell you!) And prepare yourself for rare excitement as the Inhumans enter the picture once more—in as dramatic a fashion as you could have hoped for! But, that's not all! (It never is when Marvel's concerned!) We've got a brand new super-villain waiting to make his first appearance, and we can unequivocally guarantee that you've never seen anyone quite like him. In fact, ish #62 has so much going for it, that it almost seems a waste to toss in the Sandman also—but we included him, too, just for kicks! So, if you dig unadulterated fantasy, unlimited thrills, and uninhibited surprises, grab hold of FANTASTIC FOUR #62 — but *fast!* You don't haveta be a fortune teller to know it won't be around long! Till next ish, then, keep well — keep happy — and keep away from the Negative Zone—one super-hero in a jam is enough!

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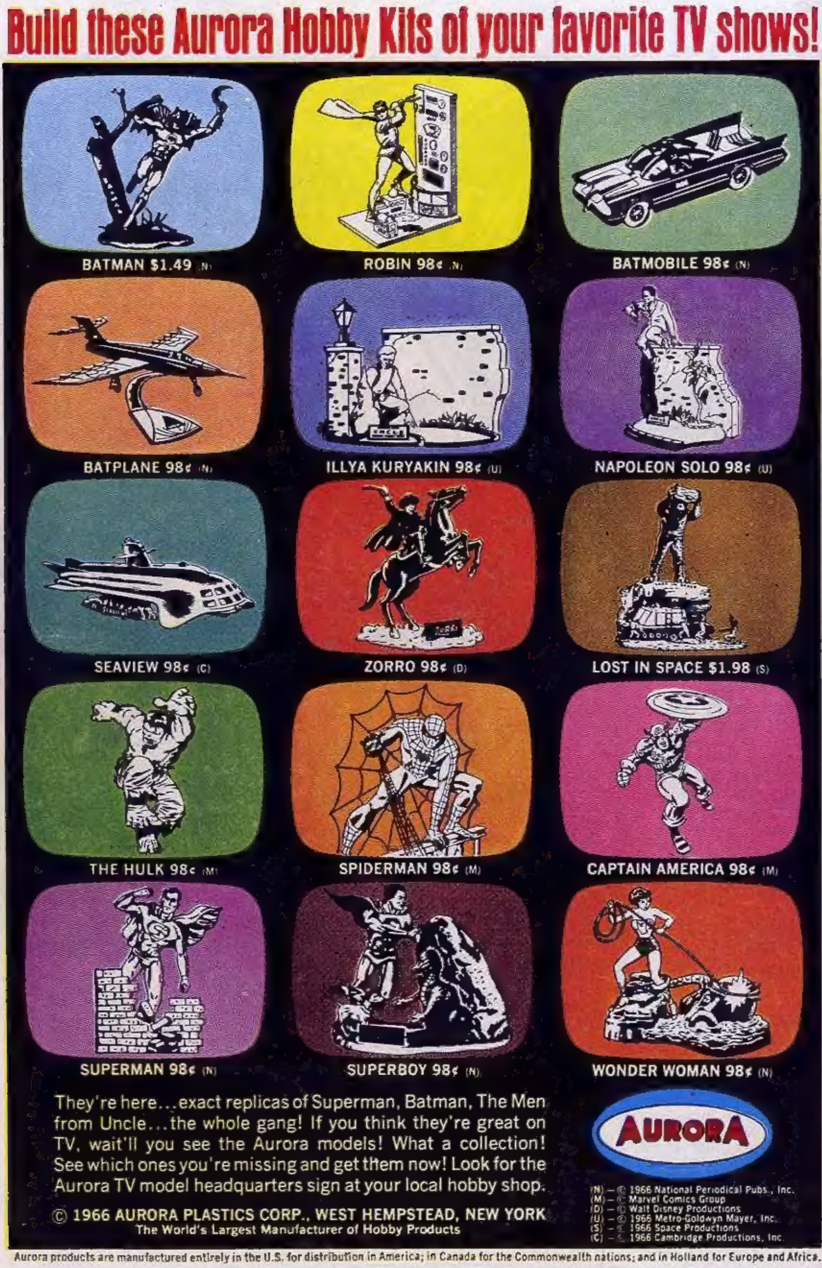

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